Production of titanium dioxide

285. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that the installed capacity of titanium dioxide in the country is 24000 tonnes per year, while the actual production is only 6500 tonnes per year in average against the requirement of around 20000 tonnes per year;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such under utilization of the capacity despite high requirement; and

(c) whether efforts are being made to improve the capacity utilisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) The present annual installed capacity of titanium dioxide in the country is 46,500 tonnes. As against an estimated demand of 25,200 tonnes, during 1986-87, the production was of the order of 13,085 tonnes.

(b) The major constraint for under utilisation of capacity is the shortage of power and the power cuts imposed by the Government of Kerala.

(c) The Government of Kerala has been requested to exempt titanium dioxide units from power cuts imposed by the State Government and for supply of continuous power to them.

समुद्र जल से सौर ऊर्जा

286. श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा :
श्री कपिल वर्मा :

क्या ऊर्जा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या समुद्र जल से सौर-ऊर्जा के उत्पादन की कोई योजना सरकार के पास है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

ऊर्जा मंत्री (श्री वसन्त साठे) : (क) जी, नहीं । फिर भी समुद्र के तापमान के अन्तर से समुद्री ज्वार-भाटा और समुद्री लहरों से ऊर्जा उत्पादन संबंधी अनुसंधान और विकास कार्य चालू है ।

(ख) लागू नहीं होता ।

Curbing transmission losses

287. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Wil the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether on 15th January, 1987 at Power Ministers' Conference, the State Electricity Boards were told that they should bring down the transmission losses from alarmingly high 22 per cent to the permissible 6 per cent; and

(b) if so, what is the situation in each State and Union Territory in this regard and consequential annual losses there, in terms of rupees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, the State Electricity Boards were advised to bring down their transmission and distribution losses. The estimated percentage of transmission and distri-

bution losses in the various State Electricity Boards/Electricity Departments during 1985-86 is indicated in the enclosed Statement (See below). The consequential annual losses, in terms of rupees, would be different in each State/Union Territory, depending upon the extent of such losses in the urban and rural areas and the prevalent rates of electricity tariff for the various categories of consumers.

Statement

Percentage transmission distribution losses(including commercial losses) in state Electricity Boards/Electricity Departments, for the year 1986-87.

Region	State Electricity Board Department	%age Loss(*)
1	2	3
Northern Region	1. Haryana	19·84
	2. Himachal Pradesh	20·22
	3. Jammu & Kashmir	35·85
	4. Punjab	18·82
	5. Rajasthan	26·54
	6. Uttar Pradesh	20·50
	7. Chandigarh	18·90
	8. D.E.S.U.	18·00
Western Region	1. Gujarat	25·50
	2. Madhya Pradesh	18·90
	3. Maharashtra	14·51
	4. Dadra, & Nagar Haveli	16·00
	5. Goa, Daman & Diu	20·43
Southern Region	1. Andhra Pradesh	19·19
	2. Karnataka	22·50
	3. Kerala	24·60
	4. Tamil Nadu	18·70
	5. Lakshadweep Islands	19·82
	6. Pondicherry	18·00
Eastern Region	1. Bihar	22·48
	2. Orissa	23·00
	3. Sikkim	18·20
	4. West Bengal	23·13
	5. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	15·11

1	2	3
North Eastern Region . .	1. Assam	19·98
	2. Manipur	45·00
	3. Meghalaya	8·19
	4. Nagaland	20·00
	5. Tripura	30·50
	6. Arunachal Pradesh	N.A.
	7. Mizoram	43·63
ALL - INDIA (UTILITIES) : -		21·70

NOTE (1) Provisional.

(2) NA: Not available.

(3) The lower T&D loss figure in respect of Meghalaya are due to bulk sale of energy at HT level to the neighbouring States.

Purchase of gas from Quarter

288. SRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to buy gas from Qatar; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) No gas is proposed to be bought from Qatar at present.

(b) Does not arise.

Export of Maruti cars

289. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Maruti cars are in demand in foreign countries; and

(b) if so, the names of the countries which have shown an interest in import of these cars?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K. K. TEWARY): (a) and (b) Yes. Sir. Maruti Udyog Limited have received export enquiries from Nicaragua, Angola, Nigeria, Afghanistan, G.D.R., Czechoslovakia, Malta etc. They have already supplied vehicles to Nepal and Bangladesh and recently concluded a contract for sale of 500 cars to Hungary.

Sale of titanium dioxide

290. SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE:

SHRI M. A. BABY:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints regarding shady deals in the sale of the titanium dioxide;